# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| | ALABAMA | | | |
| AL | **AL Harmful Algal Bloom Information Exchange** - The Dauphin Island Sea Lab Harmful Algal Bloom web page will be refined to provide a stand-alone Web Internet site. The Internet site will contain Harmful Algal Bloom data from all Alabama agencies and research data will be integrated into a comprehensive report on Harmful Algal Bloom distributions in state water. The undertaking will help to create the Alabama Harmful Algal Bloom Information Exchange Network. | 2001 | $13,500 | Dauphin Island Sea Lab |
| AL | **Baldwin County Septic Tank Maintenance Demonstration Project** - This Alabama Department of Health project will educate homeowners about good septic tank maintenance. Objectives are to demonstrate the benefits of septic tank effluent filters as good maintenance tools and to encourage action by local county and community leaders to establish a management program for onsite sewage disposal systems. The long-term goal of this endeavor is to develop a partnership that is locally lead and that can devise a management program for onsite sewage disposal that is easy to implement and cost effective. | 2002 | $62,000 | Alabama Dept. of Public Health |
| AL | **An Integrated HAB Monitoring Program for Alabama Waters**- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and Red Tides have become increasingly numerous over the past 3 decades. The Gulf of Mexico Program and the Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory will conduct a project that will extend current Hazardous Algal Bloom monitoring data to additional inshore and offshore waters of the Alabama coast. The project will also institute a common data and information exchange effort between the various management and academic organizations to better understand HABs and Red Tides. | 2002 | $70,200 | Dauphin Island Sea Lab |
| AL | **Wetland Resource Measurement Baseline (Year 2)** -The National Wetlands Research Center will produce wetlands and upland habitat maps from the 2002 color infrared, 1:30,000 scale aerial photography. The 1:24,000 scale USGS quadrangles that are inclusive of Mobile County will be interpreted and mapped. The photo interpretations will be groundtruthed, and hard copy maps will be produced. | 2002 | $90,000 | Dauphin Island Sea Lab - Mobile Bay NEP |

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| AL | **Compilation, Assessment and Characterization of Available Mercury Data from Natural Materials -** The Geological Survey of Alabama will compile, assess, and characterize the existing mercury data for Mobile and Baldwin counties and develop recommendations for future actions relative to gaining an understanding of mercury occurrence in coastal Alabama. There will be a compilation and evaluation of data for Mobile and Baldwin counties which accurately represent mercury concentrations in natural materials (biota, water, sediment, soil, or rock) within the limitations imposed by the methods of determination used for analysis and are representative of true conditions in the study area. | 2003 | $76,500 | Geological Survey of Alabama |
| AL | **Habitat and Water Quality Protection through Gully Restoration -** Gullies have formed in the Weeks Bay watershed due to a combination of heavy rain events and lack of erosion control best management practices. Many of these gullies contribute sediment-laden water to Fish River, the main tributary of Weeks Bay, an outstanding National Resource Water. Runoff water from these gullies contributes to the destruction of sensitive habitats. Restoration activities may include hard structures such as rip rap, vegetative measures, and placement of structures to reduce stormwater velocity. Practices that protect and maintain water quality will be encouraged on each restoration site. The project will produce improvements in water and habitat quality through a decrease in sedimentation. Water quality monitoring will be targeted before, during, and after gully restoration efforts to compare water quality. | 2003 | $45,000 | Baldwin County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| AL | **Conservation Tillage Demonstration Project -** Sediment is generally acknowledged as the number one pollutant to waters of the U.S. Limiting the erosion of agricultural fields by the use of conservation tillage, will decrease sediment loads. This decrease of erosion and sedimentation to Mobile County waters will improve water and habitat quality. Conservation tillage is any planting method that leaves at least 30 percent of the soil surface covered with crop residue after planting. A survey of farmers has shown that the major barrier to the adoption of conservation tillage is unwillingness to change because of the risk involved and the expense of purchasing new equipment. This project proposes to purchase a conservation-tillage grain drill that can be rented out to local farmers for a nominal fee. By having the equipment available for a nominal fee, Mobile County farmers will be able to implement conservation tillage practices without cost prohibitive equipment purchases and judge for themselves the risks involved in this proven technology. | 2003 | $27,000 | Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| AL | **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Gardening -** Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) are one of the most productive plant communities in the world. They provide habitat for commercial and recreational sea organisms such as shrimp and crabs. Many fish species begin their lives in SAVs before moving out to open water. The SAV gardening project is composed of three components: 1. Acquiring the seed/seedlings of the SAVs for planting; 2. Creation of the SAV gardening guide; 3. creating SAV plots at volunteer waterfront properties. Over a two-year period, 10,000 to 15,000 square feet of SAV habitat will be restored. | 2003 | $31,500 | Dauphin Island Sea Lab |

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| AL | **Coastal Alabama Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Program** -This monitoring project will provide information needed to assess the degree to which the water quality is suitable for swimming and overall human exposure. The project will initiate and phase-in a recreational area bacteriological water monitoring program. The monitoring sites will be located at high volume public access areas to help achieve and maintain safe water quality standards that are an essential part of a healthy population and lifestyle. | 2000 | $50,000 | AL Dept of Environmental Management |
| AL | **Coastal Alabama Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Program (Year 2**)- This project will continue the monitoring of water quality in high-use public access areas on the Alabama Coast to provide information needed to assess the degree to which the water quality is suitable for swimming and overall human exposure. | 2001 | $31,500 | AL Dept of Environmental Management |
| AL | **Current Land Use/Land Cover Analysis for Coastal Alabama** A current land use/land cover classification for Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama, will be developed. The datasets created by this project can be used as decision and planning support tools and as inputs for creating predictive models. | 2001 | $80,000 | Geological Survey of Alabama |
| AL | **Mobile Bay and Watershed Water Quality Modeling** - The State of Alabama is responsible for the development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for water bodies on the §303(d) list. The scope of this project will involve data evaluation, modeling, and other work necessary to develop the Mobile Bay and Mobile Bay Watershed TMDLs. | 2001 | $90,000 | Tetra Tech |

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| AL | **Wetland Resource Measurement Baseline** -This multi-year project will determine the extent of emergent wetland conversion, emergent alteration of degradation, and the condition of other upland habitats. There are two components: 1. the collection of color infrared aerial photography and 2. the photo interpretation, classification and mapping of the habitats. | 2001 | $80,000 | University of South Alabama |
| AL | **Threemile Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study -** The overall goal of this project is to establish the allowable loading of pollutants or other quantifiable parameters for Threemile Creek. Two segments of Threemile Creek are on the 303(d) List beginning at the source to its confluence with Mobile River. This project will assist ADEM in the preparation of TMDLs for the reduction and elimination of pollution in Threemile Creek. Development of the TMDL will assist in the restoration of this impaired segment in the coastal area of Mobile Bay. Education and outreach activities during the TMDL development will also improve public awareness in the watershed. | 2003 | $48,614 | Alabama Department of Environmental Protection |

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| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **FLORIDA** | | | |
| FL | **Seagrass & Coastal Emergent Wetlands Restoration-Pensacola Bay System** -The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Northwest District has been utilizing a tissue culture micro-propagation technique to produce and restore seagrass populations in Pensacola Bay for over four years. This project will allow 2 full-time employees to work, along with volunteers, in the Tissue Culture Laboratory and the Coastal and Wetland Plant Nursery for 12 months and continue growth and maintenance of over 40 species of seagrass and emergent wetland plants for restoration in the Pensacola area. | 2000 | $65,000 | Florida Department of Environmental Protection |
| FL | **Seagrass Management Plan for Big Lagoon and Santa Rosa Sound, Pensacola Bay System** -A seagrass monitoring program has been implemented that will allow more accurate determinations and probable causes for the decline in seagrass populations. The results from this project will be used to draft the "Seagrass Management Plan for Big Lagoon and Santa Rosa Sound." The Plan will provide the scientific data and facts needed by local governmental leaders to take actions to reduce the loss of seagrasses throughout the Gulf of Mexico. As an added benefit of this study, the water quality monitoring component will determine the impact and influence of the stormwater discharges on the health of seagrasses. | 2000 | $60,000 | Florida Department of Environmental Protection |
| FL | **Risk Assessment in Florida**- The Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services will conduct an education workshop for the Florida medical community on the risks associated with consumption of shellfish. The main objective of this project is to inform the medical community in Florida about the risks posed by the marine bacteria, *Vibrio vulnificus* , to people whose immune systems are compromised by liver disease, chemotherapy and other factors that may increase adverse health risks. | 2001 | $18,900 | FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Serv |
| FL | **Seagrass & Coastal Emergent Wetlands Restoration-Pensacola Bay System (Year 2)** - Seagrasses will be propagated on biodegradable coconut fiber mats to be installed along the shoreline of the Pensacola Bay System to provide habitat and improve water quality. Combined expected annual production of seagrasses and emergent wetland vegetation is 80,000 plants. It is estimated that two acres of aquatic emergent wetlands will be created from this project. | 2001 | $63,000 | Florida Department of Environmental Protection |

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| Fl | **Storm Water Biofilter Demonstration Project – Pensacola Bay**<br>The Pensacola Bay system has lost over 20% of submerged seagrasses from 1980 to 1992. Florida Department of Environmental Protection will construct between ten and twenty acres of saltmarsh along approximately one mile of shoreline. Along the westward edge of the marshes, a series of oyster reefs will be constructed to protect the marsh area from wave energy. | 2001 | $67,500 | Florida Department of Environmental Protection |
| FL | **Seagrass & Coastal Emergent Wetlands Restoration-Pensacola Bay System (Year 3)**--Submerged aquatic vegetation or seagrass habitat in the Big Bend area is some of the most extensive in Florida. The Gulf of Mexico Program and the Suwannee River Water Management District want to ensure that the habitat continues to be productive. Protection of the seagrass will largely depend on adequate water quality allowing sufficient light energy to penetrate to the seagrass canopy. This study will include field sampling, laboratory sampling and data summary to assess the water quality in the region to improve the habitat in which new seagrass may emerge. | 2002 | $66,285 | Florida Department of Environmental Protection |
| FL | **Project Greenshores Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Project, Pensacola Bay System -** The Florida Department of Environmental Protection in coordination with other organizations in the Pensacola area has developed a large habitat restoration project. This project involves the restoration of between 10 to 20 acres of saltmarsh along approximately one mile of the Pensacola Bay shoreline. Submerged aquatic vegetation will be planted in the areas of the marsh that remain submerged. A series of oyster reefs will also be constructed to protect the newly created marshes and improve the water quality through filtration by oysters and other filter feeders. Monitoring of this project will document the growth and establishment of submerged and emergent vegetation as well as the colonization of the reefs by oysters. | 2003 | $103,500 | Florida Department of Environmental Protection |
| FL | **Data Inventory and Needs Assessment for Florida's Gulf of Mexico Program Projects** -Data and information are essential for the Gulf of Mexico Program's ability to achieve its goal. Data is necessary to support planning and implementation of projects and to measure environmental indicators to determine progress. This project will enable the inventory and needs assessment of data to be completed and provide a web-based tool for the information to be used by the Gulf of Mexcio Program's network of partners. | 2002 | $32,500 | David Stage & Associates |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| FL | **Educational Workshop for the Florida Medical Community on the Risks Associated with Consumption of Shellfish that may contain Naturally-Occurring Marine *Vibrio* Bacteria -** Naturally occurring *Vibrio* bacteria associated with the consumption of raw molluscan bivalve shellfish harvested from Florida and the Gulf of Mexico waters have caused serious illnesses and deaths in at-risk consumers. The foremost strategy to reduce the number of illnesses in at-risk individuals is to educate and inform the medical community. Awareness by the medical community will result in appropriate information being transmitted directly to the at-risk patient at the time of treatment and/or counseling for the at-risk condition. | 2003 | $13,500 | Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services |
| FL | **Year 3: Assessment of Seagrass Habitat and Water Quality in the Northern Florida Big Bend Coastal Area -** The Suwannee River Water Management District has begun a multi-year effort to assess seagrass resources in the northern Big Bend region of Florida. This project will continue the seagrass mapping, monitor seagrass habitat in the Suwannee River estuary and other estuaries in the Big Bend, and evaluate the possibility of conducting experimental studies of light effect on seagrass health. Protection of the seagrasses in the northern Big Bend is a management issue of importance to federal, state, regional, and local resource managers. | 2003 | $67,500 | Suwannee River Water Management District |
| FL | **Analysis of Fisheries Data** -The objective of this project is to investigate the relationship between freshwater inflow and the abundance of fisheries resources in the Suwannee River estuary. The information will be used to develop “Minimum Flows and Levels” (MFL) models within the Suwannee River watershed and will provide data useful in setting MFLs for the river as well as future evaluations and refinements of MFLs. | 2000 | $50,000 | Suwannee River Water Management District |
| FL | **Tampa Bay Seagrass Recovery Workshop** --This project will explore the factors influencing seagrass recovery in Tampa Bay and other Gulf Coast estuaries. Some of the parameters that will be studied are water quality, changes in circulation patterns, and modifications of offshore sandbars. This project will bring together national experts with local Bay managers to develop a specific plan of action addressing seagrass recovery. This undertaking will improve monitoring plans for Tampa Bay seagrasses. | 2000 | $10,000 | Tampa Bay National Estuary Program |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| FL | **Seagrass Baseline Characterization** - Submerged aquatic vegetation or seagrass habitat in the Big Bend area is some of the most extensive in Florida. Protection of the seagrass will largely depend on adequate water quality allowing sufficient light energy to penetrate to the seagrass canopy. This study will include field sampling, laboratory sampling and data summary to assess the water quality in the region to improve the habitat in which new seagrass may emerge. | 2001 | $25,000 | Suwannee River Water Management District |
| FL | **Suwannee River Coastal Community Coliform and Nutrient Control Study** -Environmental tracing and monitoring will be conducted to determine if older onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems are significant sources of coliform contamination in adjacent coastal waters and canals. Monitoring will be conducted also for nitrogen and phosphorous which have been shown to increase the possibility of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. | 2001 | $80,000 | Florida Department of Health |
| FL | **Access to Digital Historic and Recent Tampa Bay Seagrass and Coastal Wetlands Data** -The U.S. Geological Service will assist the Habitat Focus Team to provide the necessary tools and digital data for further evaluation of historic and existing seagrass maps and photographs of Tampa Bay. | 2001 | $27,000 | U.S. Dept. of Interior/Geological Survey |
| FL | **Restore Circulation and Provide Ecological Enhancement in the Ft. DeSoto Park Aquatic Habitat Mgmt Area**.The objective of this cooperative effort is to restore circulation to the inner portion of bays that were severed during the dredging and filling activities that occurred in the late 1950's. The focus of this project is on habitat recovery through the enhancement of seagrasses as well as the enhancement of fauna dependent upon seagrasses in the area. It is estimated that over two hundred acres of vegetative seagrass will be created or enhanced and water quality parameters will be improved by this undertaking. | 2001 | $100,000 | Pinellas Co. Dept. of Environmental Mgt. |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| FL | **A Public Exhibit at the Florida Aquarium: Invasive Species**-The Florida Aquarium proposes to design, produce, and install an exhibit on invasive species impacting natural ecosystems in southwest Florida and the southeastern United States. This exhibit will educate the public about the role humans play in introducing invasive species into our natural systems, and how they as individuals and responsible citizens can help to control and alleviate this critical environmental problem. | 2002 | $10,000 | The Florida Aquarium, Inc |
| FL | **Assess Seagrasses and Water Quality for Seagrass Baseline Characterization (Year 2)** - Submerged aquatic vegetation or seagrass habitat in the Big Bend area is some of the most extensive in Florida. The Gulf of Mexico Program and the Suwannee River Water Management District want to ensure that the habitat continues to be productive. Protection of the seagrass will largely depend on adequate water quality allowing sufficient light energy to penetrate to the seagrass canopy. This study will include field sampling, laboratory sampling and data summary to assess the water quality in the region to improve the habitat in which new seagrass may emerge. | 2002 | $67,500 | Suwannee River Water Management District |
| FL | **Reducting Onsite Sewage Treatment System Impacts in the Suwannee River Basin** - The overall objective of this project will be to monitor a conventional onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems and monitor a system that has been retrofitted with nutrient reducing technology. It is anticipated that retrofitting these conventional onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems with this new technology will noticeably reduce the impact of nutrients and pathogen loading to the groundwater in the Suwannee River Basin. | 2002 | $48,150 | Florida Dept of Health |
| FL | **Seagrass and Manatee Protection in the Environmentally Sensitive Areas of Shell Key and Weedon Island** - The Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management is conducting a project that will result in the design, permitting and placement of seagrass and manatee protection signs on pilings in Tampa Bay in the Weedon Island and Ft. DeSoto/Shell Key seagrass protection areas. The signs will perform a dual function of protecting both manatees and seagrass beds by informing boaters of different protection zones. Some areas will warn boaters of shallow water that contains seagrass beds and other signs will indicate areas that are off-limits during certain times of the year. | 2002 | $54,000 | Pinellas County Dept. of Environmental |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| FL | **Nutrient Flux from Sediments in Tampa Bay** - The Tampa Bay Estuary Program will measure nutrient flux between Tampa Bay sediments and the overlying water column. This study will also measure the diffusive fluxes of ammonia, nitrate/nitrite, dissolved organic nitrogen, dissolved inorganic phosphorus and dissolved organic phosphorus. | 2002 | $22,496 | Tampa Bay Estuary Program |
| FL | **Update of Florida West Coast Seagrass Community Profile -** The Tampa Bay Estuary Program will compile and update information on seagrass ecology and biology to include many recent studies and evaluations of the ecology and biology of seagrass meadows on Florida's west coast. A compilation of data has not been done since the 1989 publication of "The Ecology of Seagrass Meadows on the West Coast of Florida: A Community Profile." The new Community Profile will consist of extensive graphics, databases and photos. | 2002 | $18,000 | Tampa Bay Estuary Program |
| FL | **Effects of Changes in Freshwater Inflow on Biological Resources of Tampa Bay: Synthesis of Existing Information and Definition of Future Directions -** Tampa Bay Estuary Program will compile the best available data regarding Tampa Bay freshwater inflows and biological resources and to summarize the potential for developing quantitative relationships between freshwater inflows and biological responses. The analyses should enable the NEP Advisory Committee to make informed decisions with regard to project steering and resources. | 2003 | $18,000 | Tampa Bay Estuary Program |
| FL | **Assessment of Groundwater Discharge and Sewage Impacts into Sarasota Bay and Suwannee River via Rapid Marine Reconnaissance, Remote Sensing, and Tracer Methods -** The University of South Florida will be conducting a project that will test to see if southern Sarasota Bay is being impacted by sewage effluent via groundwater pathways. The project will assess the effectiveness of reconnaissance methods and assess the degree to which septic system pathways may be contributing to submarine groundwater discharge. | 2003 | $72,000 | University of South Florida |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| FL | **Ecological Assessment of Sarasota Bay** - The objective of this project is to perform an ecological assessment of the Sarasota Bay watershed. A sampling will be conducted for an additional season "class" of juvenile fish to identify which finfish are utilizing which artificial reef types and at what densities. This will lead to the determination of which reef characteristics appear most productive so that recommendations of productivity enhancement for artificial reefs and selected restoration sites can be made. This effort will develop a critical nursery habitat classification scheme based on a combination of stationary and dynamic habitat elements which are likely to control habitat by juvenile fish within the study area and will assimilate all available and relevant water quality data, fisheries research data, and land cover/habitat mapping data for use in the study. | 2000 | $18,000 | City of Sarasota |
| FL | **Assessment of Groundwater Discharge and Sewage Impacts into Sarasota Bay via Rapid Marine Reconnaissance, Remote Sensing, and Tracer Methods -** The University of South Florida will be conducting a project that will test to see if southern Sarasota Bay is being impacted by sewage effluent through groundwater pathways. This project will also employ several trial test methods to do the study, including: rapid marine reconnaissance, remote sensing and tracer methods to test their viability against other data. | 2002 | $130,500 | University of South Florida |
| FL | **Florida Blueways: Characterizing the Marine Landscape to Support Habitat Restoration in Charlotte Harbor-** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Marine Research Institute is proposing an innovative statewide approach to marine ecosystem management that holds a potential to bring a more systematic framework to these activities. The purpose of this project is to evaluate classification schemes for marine ecosystems, develop a hybrid scheme, and conduct workshops to solicit input on the schemes. | 2000 | $55,000 | FWC Florida Marine Research Institute |
| FL | **TMDL Development Support, Peace River Basin, Florida**<br>Numerous lakes and stream segments in the Peace River drainage basin are currently included on the Florida 303(d) list of impaired waters. The State of Florida will begin developing Total Maximum Daily Loads for these listed waters in the year 2002. Excessive nutrient loadings and eutrophication are the primary water-quality issues in the basin, which contains extensive phosphate deposits and has been the site of a substantial surface strip mining and fertilizer production industry since the late 1800's. This project will initiate the process of evaluating quantitative, consensus-based nutrient management targets for impaired waters in the Peace River Basin. | 2000 | $12,500 | Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| FL | **Providing Public With Timely Summaries of Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Data-** The Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) will obtain copies of the most recent water quality data available for Charlotte Harbor. The data will be examined for completeness, basic range and outlier checks, and summarized using standard statistical and graphical techniques. CHEC will then provide written, tabular, graphical, and GIS-based summaries of the key monitoring results and post the information on the CHEC web site located at http://www.checflorida.org. | 2002 | $11,250 | Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center |
| FL | **Ecological Calibration of Estero Bay Basins -** This project will provide a rapid biological approach for identifying ambient water quality conditions and monitoring trends toward improvement or toward degradation, which can trigger harmful algal blooms. Results of this study will be used by resource managers to protect, restore, and enhance thousands of acres in Estero Bay Aquatic Reserve and associated wetlands by educators and the public to become aware of the use of aquatic bio-indicators and bioassessment techniques for measuring coastal environmental quality and restoration success. | 2003 | $72,000 | The Conservancy of Southwest Florida |

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| | **GULFWIDE** | | | |
| Gulf Wide | **Citizens Advisory Committee Support**- The objective of this work is to provide technical, including meeting support, to the GMP Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) which provides input to the GMP Strategic Assessment process. This funding will support the interaction between the CAC and the citizens of the Gulf states, as well as the interaction of the CAC with the Policy Review Board and other groups, committees and organizations that comprise the Gulf of Mexico Program. | 2000 | $25,000 | Battelle Memorial Institute |
| Gulf Wide | **Fourth Gulf of Mexico Symposium** This Project implemented a symposium that identified stakeholders to raise awareness of the Gulf of Mexico as a shared resource of national importance which significantly contributes to the nation's economy. The symposium included: environmental science, a document on the health of the Gulf ecosystem and its major estuaries, an evaluation of key economic trends for the Gulf states, and Gulf-wide constituency participation in developing future strategic goals and objectives for the Gulf region. The symposium involved scientists, educators, citizens, and governments with expertise in various degrees of science, education, and point and non-point source pollution around the Gulf and the nation. The symposium was a cooperative effort to educate and inform the public on the environmental and economic status of the Gulf of Mexico. | 2000 | $45,000 | Alabama Coastal Foundation, Inc. |
| Gulf Wide | **Identifying Critical Habitats, Threats, and Key Strategies to Protect the Marine Diversity of the Northern Gulf of Mexico** - With addition funding, The Nature Conservancy will gather supplemental spacial information about the Gulf of Mexico. This new information along with previously gathered data will be available for distribution on compact disk to be used in conjunction with Geographic Information Systems. | 2000 | $11,529 | The Nature Conservancy |
| Gulf Wide | **Program Coordination for the Gulf Ecological Mgmt. Sites Program**-The Gulf Ecological Management Site (GEMS) Program is an initiative of the Gulf of Mexico Program and the five Gulf of Mexico states. It provides a regional framework for focusing attention on ecologically important Gulf habitats. The GEMS Program coordinates and utilizes existing federal, state, local and private programs and resources to identify GEMS in each state, build an informational database, and foster cooperative conservation of GEMS. A GEMS is a geographical area that has special ecological significance to the continued production of fish, wildlife and other natural resources or that represents unique habitats. One-hundred two special ecological areas have been identified as GEMS by the individual Gulf states. Information about each site, such as size, boundaries, ecological characteristics and current management status have been included in a Gulf-wide information system, and this information is publicly available via the internet for all of the Gulf states. | 2000 | $85,000 | Gulf of Mexico Foundation |

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| Gulf Wide | **Conservation Challenge - Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas Coastal Regions**- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has established the Gulf of Mexico Conservation Fund to support priority conservation projects throughout the Gulf Coast. The Fund will administer a challenge grant program to leverage program funds by ensuring that each Gulf of Mexico Program dollar is matched by at least two dollars. Projects will be selected based on criteria established by the Gulf of Mexico Program's four focus areas and will promote objectives for protecting and restoring fish, wildlife and habitats in the region. | 2000 | $125,000 | National Fish and Wildlife Foundation |
| Gulf Wide | **Software Infrastructure For Integrated Acquisition and Manipulation of Environmental Data -** The Mississippi State University Center for Air and Sea Technology requested assistance to establish an information infrastructure and to implement software based on a metadata database system to facilitate research, development, and management functionalities. Metadata is simply the descriptive information about a particular data set that allows ready searches and queries to be conducted without having to retrieve the primary data set. This process will allow several data sets to merge together in one environmental "snapshot" without losing the identity of the individual data sets. A good example of the problem is the need to assess and evaluate the hypoxic zone off of the coast of Louisiana. With the proposed metadata system, modeling and evaluation of the hypoxic zone can be conducted while still maintaining the identity of the input data. This expedites the generation of documentable results and allows for ready dissemination of such results. This data management will also help with the broad array of other issues that are under investigation in the Gulf of Mexico, such as habitat degradation, f | 2000 | $198,000 | Mississippi State University |
| Gulf Wide | **Modeling of the Mississippi Sound and Adjoining Rivers, Bays, and Shelf Waters-** The purpose of this project is the implementation and testing of an accurate, high resolution circulation-sediment-wave modeling system for the Mississippi Sound and adjoining rivers, bays and shelf waters. The modeling system will consist of a three-dimensional circulation model, a sand-silt sediment transport model, and a wave model. This system will provide the means to forecast littoral circulation, sediment suspension and transport, and surface waves while allowing for the appropriate coupling of the circulation, sediment transport and wave models. Turbidity, current, and temperature-salinity data will be collected for model validation. | 2000 | $200,000 | University of Southern Mississippi |
| Gulf Wide | **Gulf of Mexico Assessment Center** - 'The purpose of this Interagency Agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency and National Wetlands Research Center (NWRC) is to leverage the specialized expertise and capability of the NWRC to assist the Gulf of Mexico Program in its application of the strategic assessment process to its priority issues and in its regional environmental assessment activities. Specific objectives for the NWRC are to provide: GIS and remote sensing products for use in public education and outreach on Gulf issues, a Gulf of Mexico Habitat Status and Trends Report for the GMP's Habitat Focus Team, and assistance in the development of an integrated coastal monitoring program for the Gulf ecosystem and in the use of the resulting monitoring data for a "State of the Gulf" report. | 2000 | $130,000 | U.S. Dept. of Interior/Geological Survey |

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| Gulf Wide | **Gulf of Mexico Seed Grants for Education and Outreach Projects in Aquatic Nuisance Species** - 'This project will provide an inventory of current and planned research in the Gulf region that may help answer questions important to resolving critical environmental issues in the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. The inventory will help coordinate research activities, improve knowledge of the Gulf ecosystem, and avoid duplication of effort in the research community. It will benefit scientific efforts at the Gulf States' level, within the partnership of the Gulf of Mexico Program, and within the Gulf academic community. | 2000 | $120,000 | MS-AL Sea Grant Consortium |
| Gulf Wide | **Sponsorship for Documentary on Invasive Plants**-It is estimated that invasive plants infest over 100 million acres and continue to increase by 8 to 20 percent annually, costing the government, public land managers and private land-owners billions of dollars in revenue and control costs. The Gulf of Mexico Program will be partners in an upcoming episode of TECHNO 2100; a national educational television documentary focusing on invasive plants. The program is entitled "Invasive Plants: Impact and Prevention." Invasive plants experts will collaborate to help create a video that raises public awareness of the threat of biological diversity and the need for ongoing education, research, and cooperation between agencies and private land owners. The primary focus of the video is to investigate effective and successful ways to prevent, control and manage invasive plants. | 2000 | $20,000 | Information Television Network |
| Gulf Wide | **Regional Workshop for Gulf State Agencies**-The goal of this project is to conduct a workshop to identify common environmental monitoring techniques used by state agencies. The primary objective of the project is to foster mutual understanding of water quality requirements and procedures used by Gulf State Agencies responsible for classifying shellfish growing waters and administrating pollution control and abatement programs. | 2000 | $20,200 | Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conf |
| Gulf Wide | **Isolation & Identification of Vibrio Parahaemolyticus by Gene Probe Analysis**-The Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference will develop a training video for State Shellfish Control Agency Laboratory personnel on the use of gene probe methodology for Vibrio parahaemolyticus. In the video the FDA researchers who developed the technique will demonstrate and describe all of the steps in the method. This video will provide an economical alternative for this kind of training and will also serve as a reference source. Copies of the video will be provided to all the laboratories with shellfish control responsibilities. | 2000 | $25,275 | Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conf. |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gulf Wide | **Video News Release Series, "Its Time! One Gulf - One Community!"-**This project consists of a series of eight video news releases. The news releases document Gulf of Mexico Program projects throughout the Gulf. In addition to the eight video news releases there will be an overview to convey the value of the Gulf of Mexico and the reason for all the projects. The key end product will be a documentary style video that compiles all the news releases as well as an overview to provide a report card on the Gulf and Gulf of Mexico Program projects. | 2001 | $37,200 | Braud Communications |
| Gulf Wide | **HABSOS - Integrated Case Study for the Gulf of Mexico**-This project is part of a Harmful Algal Bloom Observing System Pilot Project of which the Gulf of Mexico Program is the coordinator. The GMP, along with the EPA Gulf Breeze Laboratory, will be working with the NOAA National Coastal Data Development Center, the National Association of Marine Laboratories, and the five Gulf States to use retrospective data from two time periods to develop an algorithm that will allow the prediction and tracking of harmful algal blooms with sufficient accuracy to allow preemptive actions to be taken by state environmental managers. | 2001 | $49,943 | Dauphin Island Sea Lab |
| Gulf Wide | **Environmental Assessment Project**-The purpose of this interagency agreement between the Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP) and the National Wetlands Research Center (NWRC) is to leverage the specialized expertise and capability of the NWRC to assist the GMP in its application of the strategic assessment process to its priority issues and in its regional environmental assessment activities. | 2001 | $134,000 | U.S. Dept. of Interior/Geological Survey |
| Gulf Wide | **Gulf Aquatic Mortality Network Enhancement and Training-**The Florida Marine Research Institute and the Gulf of Mexico Program share a common interest in establishing and maintaining a reliable response network in the Gulf of Mexico. This project will initiate a plan to design, code, test and implement a new database system. | 2001 | $90,000 | FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gulf Wide | **Sponsorship for Documentary on Invasive Plants-**The Gulf of Mexico Program will be partners with other federal agencies in an upcoming episode of TECHNO 2100: a national education television documentary focusing on invasive plants. The focus will be the eradication methods being implemented to safeguard against the spread of noxious weeds and plants. | 2001 | $25,000 | Information Television Network |
| Gulf Wide | **Second Marine Bioinvasions Conference-** Support is provided for this conference which brings together researchers and environmental managers from around the world to share the latest research and management processes for controlling invading species in the coastal, estuarine, and marine environments. The conference is designed to raise the consciousness of the Gulf of Mexico Region state leaders to this vulnerability, to provide them with the latest information of invasive species, and to give them the opportunity to meet and discuss the Regional situation and stimulate the development of state and regional management plans to control invasive species. | 2001 | $5,000 | Louisiana State University |
| Gulf Wide | **Sponsorship for 11th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species-** Logistical support is provided for the 11th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species. This conference is considered the most comprehensive forum for the review of accumulated scientific knowledge. The conference presents the latest field research, introduction of new technological developments for prevention, monitoring and control, and discussion of policy, legislation, public education and outreach initiatives related to aquatic invasive species. | 2001 | $6,468 | International Conference on Aquatic Species |
| Gulf Wide | **Educating the At-Risk Consumer in Gulf -**The main objective of this project is to educate people whose immune systems are compromised by liver disease, chemotherapy, etc., about the risks posed by the marine bacteria, Vibrio vulnificus, to which they could potentially be exposed by eating raw oysters and to encourage them to avoid eating uncooked oysters. | 2001 | $75,000 | Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conf. |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gulf Wide | **Sponsorship for 2001 Gulf and South Atlantic Shellfish Conference** -This is an important forum for industry representatives and state and federal regulators. Discussions include important health and safety issues that affect both consumers and industry. | 2001 | $500 | MS Dept. of Marine Resources |
| Gulf Wide | **2002 Video News Release Series "One Gulf …"One Community"-** This project consists of a series of eight video news releases. The news releases will document Gulf of Mexico Program projects throughout the Gulf. In addition to the eight video news releases there will be an overview to convey the value of the Gulf of Mexico and the reason for all the projects. The key end product will be a documentary-style video that compiles all the news releases and an overview to provide a report card on the Gulf and Gulf of Mexico Program projects. | 2002 | $38,499 | Quadrant Productons |
| Gulf Wide | **Gulf Ecological Management Sites (GEMS) Projects** - The Gulf Ecological Management Site (GEMS) Program is an initiative of the Gulf of Mexico Program and the five Gulf of Mexico states. Working with the Gulf of Mexico Foundation it provides a regional framework for focusing attention on ecologically important Gulf habitats. The GEMS Program coordinates and utilizes existing federal, state, local and private programs and resources to identify GEMS in each state. This project will help to build an informational database, and foster cooperative conservation of GEMS. A GEMS is a geographic area that has special ecological significance to the continued production of fish, wildlife and other natural resources or that represents unique habitats. | 2002 | $90,000 | Gulf of Mexico Foundation |
| Gulf Wide | **Habitat Focus Team Support -** Technical **s**upport provided for the reflight and survey of brown marsh in Louisiana; seagrass status and trends data and report. | 2002 | $51,920 | Dept of the Interior/USGS NWRC |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gulf Wide | **Sponsorship for the Gulf Restoration Network Water Quantity Symposium**- The Gulf Restoration Network along with the support of the Gulf of Mexico Program held a symposium to involve a broad array of public and private interests. The symposium educated all parties involved on water quantity issues facing the Gulf region and the environmental and economic consequences of decreases in in-stream flow. The ultimate goal of the symposium was to begin building a foundation for developing an effective regional approach to managing ground and surface water in the Gulf region. | 2002 | $13,090 | Gulf Restoration Network |
| Gulf Wide | **Environmental Assessment Project**-The purpose of this Interagency Agreement between the Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP) and National Wetland Resource Center (NWRC) is to leverage the specialized expertise and capability of the NWRC to assist the GMP in its application of the strategic assessment process to its priority issues and in its regional environmental assessment activities. | 2002 | $131,750 | U.S. Dept. of Interior/Geological Survey |
| Gulf Wide | **Advancing the Legal Regime**-The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Program is working to promote nonindigenous species laws. While each of the five Gulf of Mexico states has laws that apply to nonindigenous species, the laws are generally inadequate to address the challenges of preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species throughout the Gulf. The goal of this project is to provide the information and analysis necessary to strengthen state laws and improve the ability of policy makers to apply techniques on a regional level through a management plan. Also, this project will provide information to policy-makers and state managers allowing them to have access to relevant legal policy information so that may manage nonindigenous species throughout the Gulf of Mexico region. | 2002 | $15,000 | University of Mississippi/ MS-AL Sea Grant |
| Gulf Wide | **Continuation and Expansion of Dockwatch**- The Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory will continue a project to document and report nuisance and invasive species. The overall objective of this project is to extend the “Dock Watch” volunteer reporting system for nuisance and invasive jellyfish. The program is a network of coastal residents from northwest Florida to south-central Louisiana that are responsible for making routine observations of biological and physical water properties that scientists can then use to track the occurrence, and determine cause, of nuisance or invasive jellyfish blooms. | 2002 | $34,999 | Dauphin Island Sea Lab |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gulf Wide | **Synoptic Survey of Total Mercury in Recreational Finfish of the Gulf of Mexico** In association with the Gulf of Mexico Program and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the National Seafood Inspection Laboratory will design and conduct a synoptic survey to determine the Mercury concentration in selected Gulf of Mexico fisheries species. Approximately 2,500 recreational finfish species form the Gulf of Mexico will be analyzed for total mercury using a direct mercury analyzer. The intent of this synoptic survey is to quickly provide data on a range of species for which either little or no mercury data exist, and/or to confirm previously collected data on the known high- risk species. After the completion of the Synoptic Survey, the data should allow for other federal and state agencies to evaluate the need for monitoring selected species and to set the proper consumption advisories. | 2002 | $51,749 | NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service |
| Gulf Wide | **Gulf of Mexico Community-Based Restoration Regional Partnership -** The Gulf Ecological Management Site (GEMS) Program is an initiative of the Gulf of Mexico Program and the five Gulf States. It provides a regional framework for focusing attention on ecologically important Gulf habitats. Funding for this project is used to develop and implement essential fish habitat restoration projects in the GEMS across the Gulf by helping the Gulf Foundation carry out activities associated with the NOAA Coastal Restoration Program (CRP) and awarding grants that meet the criteria of the CRP. | 2003 | $90,000 | Gulf of Mexico Foundation |
| Gulf Wide | **Establishing a Nature Conservancy Initiative to Coordinate and Enhance Conservancy Actions in the Coastal Areas of the Gulf of Mexico -** The focus of this project will be on the most important conservation areas, identifying the most important threats within and among conservation areas, developing high leverage conservation strategies to address those threats, and increase personnel and financial capacity to successfully address the conservation challenges within each priority conservation area. There will be a 3 year pilot phase during which TNC's Migratory Bird Program will refine the conservation priorities in the Gulf of Mexico by supporting radar telemetry work along the Gulf to better identify priority migratory bird stopover areas. Coastal habitat on the Gulf of Mexico is critical to the survival of many species of North American birds in their migration over the Gulf. | 2003 | $200,000 | The Nature Conservancy |
| Gulf Wide | **Nutrient Enrichment Focus Team Support -**Technical support was provided for a Nutrient Pilot Study and Lower Mississippi River Sub-Basin Committee assistance. | 2003 | $155,000 | Battelle Memorial Institute |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gulf Wide | **Habitat Focus Team Support -** Technical support was provided for seagrass data and technical support; habitat restoration tracking system inventory; meeting and workshop support. | | $98,400 | Battelle Memorial Institute |
| Gulf Wide | **Citizens Advisory Committee Support**- The objective of this work is to provide technical, including meeting support, to the GMP Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide input to the GMP Strategic Assessment process. This funding will support the interaction between the CAC and the citizens of the Gulf states, as well as the interaction of the CAC with the Policy Review Board and other groups, committees and organizations that comprise the Gulf of Mexico Program. | 2001 | $25,000 | Battelle Memorial Institute |
| Gulf Wide | **Communications Committee Support -** Technical support for the development and production of Gulf of Mexico Program Shareholder Reports 2001 and 2002. | 2001 | $40,000 | Battelle Memorial Institute |
| Gulf Wide | **Invasive Species Support -** Technical support was provided to assist the states in developing Invasive Species Management Plans which included workshops and facilitating meetings and to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to develop the annual reports for 2000, 2001, 2002. | 2001 | $160,000 | Battelle Memorial Institute |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gulf Wide | **Citizens Advisory Committee Support**- The objective of this work is to provide technical, including meeting support, to the GMP Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide input to the GMP Strategic Assessment process. This funding will support the interaction between the CAC and the citizens of the Gulf states, as well as the interaction of the CAC with the Policy Review Board and other groups, committees and organizations that comprise the Gulf of Mexico Program. | 2002 | $25,000 | Battelle Memorial Institute |
| Gulf Wide | **Coastal Society - Gulf of Mexico Symposium -** Funding was provided to sponsor the Coastal Society Conference which was an opportunity for the Gulf of Mexico Program to partnership with other government agencies, state and local governments, and business and industry to showcase Gulf of Mexico issues, approaches, and successes. Staff from the Program participated in interchanges among science, economic, and policy issues related to the Gulf. | 2002 | $15,000 | The Coastal Society |
| Gulf Wide | **Coastal America Partnership -**Technical support for develoment of strategic plan for Coastal America partnership with Gulf of Mexico Program. | 2003 | $60,000 | Battelle Memorial Institute |
| Gulf Wide | **Citizens Advisory Committee Support**- The objective of this work assignment is to provide technical, including meeting support, to the GMP Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide input to the GMP Strategic Assessment process (Workplan). This funding will support the interaction between the CAC and the citizens of the Gulf states, as well as the interaction of the CAC with the Policy Review Board and other groups, committees and organizations that comprise the Gulf of Mexico Program. | 2003 | $25,000 | Battelle Memorial Institute |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gulf Wide | **Conservation Challenge - Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas Coastal Regions-** The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has established the Gulf of Mexico Conservation Fund to support projects that demonstrate the multiple benefits of community-based wetland restoration through the Five Star Restoration Program. The funding will assist in leveraging contributions from other public and private sources to support priority habitat conservation projects in the Gulf Coast region. | 2003 | $22,500 | National Fish and Wildlife Foundation |
| Gulf Wide | **Northern Gulf Eutrophication Model -** This project will establish an integrated multimedia, mathematical modeling framework that incorporates monitoring, condition assessment, diagnosis, and research. The model will develop predictive capability to forecast the benefits of risk reduction options and the time to realize the benefits. The model will provide defensible options to guide restoration and decision-making. | 2003 | $150,000 | EPA Gulf Breeze Laboratory |
| Gulf Wide | **U.S./Mexico Red Tide Programs Binational Agreement -** Technical support is provided to the Gulf of Mexico Program for coordination of Mexican government information and issues and development of a planning process. | 2003 | $100,000 | Battelle Memorial Institute |
| Gulf Wide | **Public Health Focus Team -**Technical support was provided to develop a Gulf-wide mercury database and continued updates to the data. | 2003 | $20,000 | Battelle Memorial Institute |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **LOUISIANA** | | | |
| LA | **Water Quality Monitoring in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin -** Water quality samples will be collected at ten potential public recreation sites in a weekly manner for an appropriate array of physiochemical parameters and ten additional sites will be monitored biweekly for fecal coliform only. Water quality information will be disseminated to the public on a weekly basis through the use of local media. The data will aid in further calibration of predictive models for water quality and will identify sources that contribute to the pollution of the selected sites. | 2003 | $53,100 | Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation |
| LA | **Hydrodynamic Modeling to Evaluate Developmental Alternates in St. Tammany Parish -** The St. Tammany Parish Government will develop a modeling tool for use in the review process of proposed development within St. Tammany Parish. The modeling tool will expand an ongoing watershed planning effort. The model results will be utilized to inform decision makers and the public on the impacts of development on water quality on the northshore of Lake Pontchartrain. | 2003 | $81,900 | St. Tammany Parish Government |
| LA | **Invasive Species of Plants in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary** The purpose of this project is to reduce the impacts of exotic invasive plants through a 2-layered program of assessment and education. A tool will be produced for understanding the extent of the exotic invasive plant problem in the Barataria-Terrebonne and to raise public awareness of the issues of exotic invasive species with the intent of altering public behavior regarding choices of landscaping plants and boating practices. | 2002 | $54,000 | LA Universities Marine Consortium |
| LA | **A Vegetative Model for Restoration, Conservation and Habitat Enhancement on Beneficial Use of Dredge Sediment** Through this project, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program will develop baseline information on environmental parameters affecting the selection, establishment and growth of plant species for dredge-restored sites. This project will develop a methodology to re-vegetate and manage materials that have been dredged so that it may support more increased plant species. | 2002 | $73,250 | LA Universities Marine Consortium |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LA | **Restoration of 100 Square Miles of Shellfish Habitat in Lake Pontchartrain -** This project will document the adverse effects of episodic hypoxia on the biotic integrity of Lake Pontchartrain and the benefits derived from the restoration of 100 square miles of shellfish, *Rangia cuneata (*clams*)* , habitat. The importance of shellfish such as clams and oysters as natural filters for improving water quality has been recognized in other areas and efforts to restore shellfish beds to improve habitat quality are underway. The project will provide quantitative data on the benefits derived from shellfish restoration by stopping harmful saltwater intrusion. | 2003 | $61,785 | University of New Orleans |
| LA | **Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program's Bayou Lafourche Initiative**- The main objective of the Bayou Lafourche Initiative is to reestablish the residents of Bayou Lafourche as a unified community which understands sustainable development and recognizes the economic value of a clean, usable channel. This initiative will focus public attention on the importance of Bayou Lafourche as a cultural lifeline and as the mainstream of the environmental health of the entire Bayou Lafourche community. In addition, the initiative will create a long-term commitment to solving water resource problems of immense complexity through a pro-active partnership of federal, state, and private organizations. | 2000 | $90,000 | Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation |
| LA | **Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program's Bayou Lafourche Initiative (Year 2)** - To increase the focus of public attention on the importance of Bayou Lafourche as a cultural lifeline and as the mainstream of the environmental health of the entire Bayou Lafourche community, this project will concentrate on linking existing heritage-based efforts, as well as ecological restoration efforts along the bayou, into an interactive alliance. | 2001 | $81,000 | Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation |
| LA | **Stormwater Discharge** -'The objective of this project with the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium is to reduce Louisiana coastal wetland loss. This project will determine the response of vegetation, sediment accretion and marsh elevation of degraded wetlands in the Point Aux Chenes Water Management Area to stormwater quality. The project will also monitor the effects of stormwater discharge on wetland soil and water quality. | 2002 | $101,700 | LA Universities Marine Consortium |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LA | **Concentrations and Loads of Nitrate in the Atchafalaya RiverConcentrations and Loads of Nitrate in the Atchafalaya River** The United States Geological Survey will be conducting a study that will generate data and information that will assist the Nutrient Enrichment Focus team in meeting environmental goals and objectives of reducing Gulf of Mexico hypoxia to less than 5000 square kilometers. This data can be used by non-governmental organizations and by many local, state and federal agencies to reduce the ecological and economic impacts of hypoxia. | 2002 | $40,000 | U.S. Dept. of Interior/Geological Survey |
| LA | **Citizens Water Quality Monitoring and Marine Habitat Enhancement Project -** This project will address three outcomes: (1) plant 9000 marsh grass plants along Bayou Lafourche, the region's hurricane levees, and the marshlands surrounding Bayou Lafourche to assist with conservation of land and habitat; (2) expand Citizens Water Quality Monitoring to 4 monthly monitorings and locations; (3) increase regional environmental awareness and stewardship . | 2003 | $33,300 | Les Reflections du Bayou |
| LA | **Maritime Forest Ridge and Marsh Restoration at Port Fouchon, LA -** This project will reestablish a degraded maritime forest ridge and marsh fringe habitat near Bayou Moreau and Bayou Cochon in lower Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. Through subsidence and other coastal processes only very small remnants of these ridges exist today. Reestablishing the forest ridge will provide protection and much needed habitat for neotropical migratory birds and other animals and to provide for experiential ecotourism opportunities. | 2003 | $101,700 | Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium |
| LA | **Marshland Upwelling System study in the Bayou Segnette Demonstration Project** Marshland upwelling systems (MUS) will be installed in the Bayou Segnette ecosystem to treat domestic wastewater from coastal dwellings. The overall goal is to reduce the impact on sensitive estuarine areas in the Bayou Segnett ecosystem and to investigate the efficacy of the MUS in removing viral pathogens. | 2001 | $90,000 | Louisiana State University |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LA | **Executive Briefing to Establish a Louisiana Invasive Species Plan Task**- The Louisiana State University will hold a conference to inform stakeholders within Louisiana to the threat to Louisiana's ecology and economy from invasive species. This project will help create a task force that will work under the leadership of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to form and implement a state aquatic invasive species management plan. | 2002 | $9,000 | Louisiana State University |
| LA | **Louisiana Invasive Species Plan** - The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will develop a working Invasive Species Plan to facilitate response time to any invasive species threatening the state. Louisiana has 6.4 million acres of aquatic habitat and presently has no management plan to control invasive species. This project will enable the Louisiana Department of wildlife and Fisheries to develop a flexible aquatic invasive species management plan that emphasizes communication and provides for citizens education and involvement. | 2002 | $45,000 | LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries |
| LA | **Lake Pontchartrain Estuary Site Conservation Plan-** The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana will identify steps necessary to make the Lake Pontchartrain Estuary capable of supporting healthy aquatic and wetland communities. The Nature Conservancy will conduct a series of workshops that will develop a Site Conservation Plan for the Lake Pontchartrain Estuary and adjacent wetlands. The Plan will identify conservation targets, threats or stresses to conservation targets, sources of stress, strategies to abate those treats and to establish measures of success to track threat abatement for the entire estuary. | 2002 | $81,000 | The Nature Conservancy |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **MISSISSIPPI** | | | |
| MS | **Yazoo River Basin**: Nutrient Assessments in Lakes and Reservoirs-The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality must provide water quality data to support the development of nutrient criteria. Additional physical, chemical, and biological data are needed to recommend defensible nutrient criteria in the lakes and reservoirs in the Upper Yazoo River Basin. This project will provide for the water quality monitoring for both causative and response variables through the collection of data to complete this effort. | 2001 | $20,000 | MS Dept of Environmental Quality |
| MS | **Development of Conceptual Design and Framework for a Comprehensive Water Quality Model of the St. Louis Bay Estuary** - 'The long-term objective of this effort is to develop a comprehensive water quality model to help understand the dominant physical processes and subsequent enhancement of overall water quality throughout the St. Louis Bay system. The funding provided will allow the development of a conceptual design and framework for extending the capabilities of the fecal coliform water quality model to an ability to estimate a more comprehensive set of water quality parameters including dissolved oxygen and nutrients. The conceptual design will provide a roadmap for the development of a full eutrophication model of the estuary. | 2000 | $100,000 | MS Dept of Environmental Quality |
| MS | **Hydrologic Initiative in Coastal Mississippi and Alabama**-The Nature Conservancy will identify the contributions of nearby shallow ground and surface waters originating within the watershed in the Grand Bay critical habitats. After identifying the impacts of water quality and altered hydrology, a comprehensive conservation strategy can be developed for the area. | 2001 | $40,500 | The Nature Conservancy |
| MS | **Development of a Database for Point Source Locations for TMDLs**-The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality implemented a new integrated environmental information management system, enSite, in October 2000. This project will enhance the database enSite, obtain missing location data on permitted wastewater outfalls, and enter this information into the database. This information will enable MDEQ to develop TMDLs in a more efficient manner. | 2001 | $75,000 | MS Dept of Environmental Quality |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MS | **Sponsorship of the Mississippi ETV Pascagoula River Documentary**-Mississippi Educational Television is developing and producing a documentary entitled "Preserving the Pascagoula, The Last Free River." Mississippi Educational Television is the public television network for Mississippi and as such is know for its award-winning productions. The project will consist of a one-hour broadcast and six accompanying segments. The documentary will be intended to promote awareness and appreciation for the unique nature of the Pascagoula River System. This project will coincide with the 25th anniversary of legislation proclaiming the lower Pascagoula River a wildlife management area – protecting the area from further commercial, residential and industrial development. | 2002 | $22,000 | Mississippi ETV |
| MS | **Monitoring to Establish Reference Conditions for Nutrients & Algal Conditions in Estuarine & Coastal Watershed** - The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality will conduct a study to gather scientific defensible data for use in developing numeric nutrient criteria for estuaries and coastal waters. The overall objective of this project is to facilitate a better understanding of the cause-and-effect relationships in complex systems and reduce the anthropogenic component of nutrient over enrichment to levels that restore beneficial uses and prevent nutrient pollution. | 2002 | $38,000 | MS Dept of Environmental Quality |
| MS | **Mike's Island, Phase I: Baseline Assessments and Development of a Community Restoration Plan -** Funding for this project will enable the development of a conceptual restoration plan for Mike's Island. The plan will establish goals to improve the ecological integrity of the lower Pearl River and address several key issues such as invasive species management, erosion control and remediation, and reforestation. The Plan will include recommended community partnerships. Three restoration planning workshops will be held. | 2003 | $36,000 | The Nature Conservancy |
| MS | **Monitoring for St. Louis Bay Estuary and Watershed Model Calibration -** The purpose of this project is to provide a coordinated data acquisition and modeling study for calibration of the existing watershed model. The existing watershed model will be used to develop a focused field study plan with resulting data integrated into the model calibration. Tasks include: development of a detailed monitoring plan; development of an equipment installation plan; and water quality sampling, flow monitoring and soil nutrient characterization. The model will provide the necessary guidance for implementation of the TMDL for St. Louis Bay. Particular emphasis on the upland areas and reduction of nitrogen loadings to the stream channels will be essential for meeting the TMDL requirements. This modeling framework can be applied to other areas within the state and around the Gulf of Mexico. | 2003 | $90,000 | MS Dept of Environmental Quality |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MS | **Coastal Basins Urban Stormwater Monitoring for TMDL Development -** The purpose of this project is to collect and disseminate data on chemical, physical, and biological effects of varying urban runoff water quality and other information pertaining to coastal water pollution and its prevention, reduction, and elimination. An extensive assessment of data needs will be conducted and based on those findings a monitoring plan will be developed. The grantee will install, operate, and maintain monitoring equipment at the selected water quality monitoring stations to obtain the optimum representation of urban water quality data across the Mississippi coastal area. The project should provide significant assistance in the characterization of the Mississippi Coastal areas and future water quality restoration plans. | 2003 | $135,000 | MS Dept of Environmental Quality |
| MS | **Community Assistance Support for Model Smart Growth Planning in Coastal Counties-**The Hancock County Chamber of Commerce proposes to make the area a model community for smart growth. Hancock County is the third fastest growing county in Mississippi and to help guide this growth in an ecologically responsible manner, the Chamber will develop and provide local community leaders with the fundamental planning and technical assistance expertise needed to guide change and help safeguard against degrading the resources. This project will produce a model plan for coastal county growth that addresses both economic and environmental concerns and will identify and/or develop public and private partnerships to implement the model plan. | 2000 | $53,800 | Hancock County Chamber of Commerce |
| MS | **Community Assistance Support for Model Smart Growth Planning in Coastal Counties**-Support was provided to Hancock County for the development of a set of options, costs, and recommendations for wastewater transport and treatment for individual collection districts and the Southern Regional Wastewater Management District. Battelle provided technical support for engineering alternatives needed for an evaluation of the current and future wastewater needs of the County. | 2000 | $80,000 | Battelle |
| MS | **Sponsorship for Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival**-Celebrate the Gulf, a local festival on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, that promotes the Gulf of Mexico Program's philosophy to protect, restore and maintain the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem through education. | 2001 | $2,000 | Gulf Coast Community Foundation |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MS | **Inventory of Marine Science Research in the Gulf of Mexico-T**his project will provide an inventory of current and planned research in the Gulf region that may help answer questions important to resolving critical environmental issues in the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. The Mississippi – Alabama Sea Grant Consortium will develop an inventory that will help coordinate research activities, improve knowledge of the Gulf ecosystem, and avoid duplication of efforts in the research community. | 2001 | $10,800 | MS-AL Sea Grant Consortium |
| MS | **Modeling of the Mississippi Sound and Adjoining Rivers, Bays, and Shelf Waters**-An accurate, high-resolution circulation-sediment-wave modeling system for the Mississippi Sound and adjoining rivers, bays, and shelf waters is being implemented and tested. The modeling system will consist of a three-dimensional circulation model, a sand-silt sediment transport model, and a wave model. | 2001 | $200,000 | University of Southern Mississippi |
| MS | **TMDL Development Support** - Bay St. Louis (Year 2)- The waters of the Bay of St. Louis often exceed the concentrations of fecal coliforms described in the standards for waters meeting these classifications. St. Louis Bay is ranked as the second most impaired waterbody on the State of Mississippi's §303(d) list for 1996. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality will work to determine the total maximum daily loading of fecal coliform bacteria which can be assimilated by the waterbody without exceeding the established standards. | 2001 | $63,000 | MS Dept of Environmental Quality |
| MS | **Long Leaf Pine Restoration Project**- This project will assist in restoring a longleaf pine savanna that will protect an estuarine marshland which is located on the Dantzler Tract in Jackson County, Mississippi, andl restore the area to its historical function as longleaf pine upland. The savanna will require, in the future, vegetation management and alteration to maintain the area. | 2001 | $35,000 | MS Department of Marine Resources |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MS | **Sea Grass Mapping & Restoration in MS Sound**-Maps are being produced that will allow consumers to study the status and trends of seagrass, causes of change, and gaps in existing data coverage along the Mississippi Sound. This project will define the present distribution of seagrass communities in the Mississippi Sound; provide measurements of status and trends of seagrass; evaluate the progress; collect, culture, and plant shoal grass in areas that have historically supported seagrass; and evaluate the adequacy of current water quality transparency and turbidity criteria to protect seagrass resources. | 2001 | $70,000 | MS Department of Marine Resources |
| MS | **Feasibility Study for Wastewater Services**-This project will provide an engineering feasibility study for the collection and treatment system in Brooklyn, Mississippi. | 2001 | $15,000 | City of 'Brooklyn Utility District |
| MS | **Inventory of Marine Science Research in the Gulf of Mexico**- This Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium project will provide an inventory of current and planned research in the Gulf region. This project may help answer questions important to resolving critical environmental issues in the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. The inventory will help coordinate research activities, improve knowledge of the Gulf ecosystem, and avoid duplication of effort in the research community. It will benefit scientific efforts at the Gulf States level, within the partnership of the Gulf of Mexico Program, and within the Gulf academic community. | 2002 | $19,300 | MS-AL Sea Grant Consortium |
| MS | **Wastewater Collection System**- Support is provided to the Kiln Water and Fire Protection District to assist with a project that is anticipated to directly reduce the risk of dangerous public health effects associated with human exposure to pathogens generated from approximately 900 plus inadequately sewered dwellings within the boundaries of the community. This project is also anticipated to have a direct beneficial public health and economic effect by reducing the potential for contamination and closure of important shellfish growing waters along Hancock County's near-shore marine/estuarine waters. | 2002 | $46,000 | Kiln Water and Fire Protection District |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MS | **Bacterial Source Tracking in Mississippi Coastal Waters-** The University of Southern Mississippi project will study and identify secretory immunoglobulin A (sIgA) analysis to surface waters in eastern Mississippi and to clarify the source(s) of pollution entering the Wolf and Jordan River waterways. This method would attempt to determine if bovine fecal pollution is the primary source of contamination or whether bovine waste contamination is secondary to other sources of pollution. | 2002 | $45,000 | University of Southern Mississippi |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **TEXAS** | | | |
| TX | **Phase I: Habitat Database for the Galveston Bay Wetland Inventory Project** - A time series collection of existing Digital Ortho-Quads and photographs for the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed will be developed into a library. This data will include existing wetland and spacial maps, Landsat data, and other spacial information. The data will be made available for interactive mapping on an internet website so that scientists, resource managers, decision makers and the general public may use it for research and decision-making. | 2002 | $50,000 | Dept of the Interior/USGS NWRC |
| TX | **Development of a Coast-Wide Monitoring Plan for Assessing Health of Texas Seagrass Habitat -** Texas resource management agencies and research institutions agreed to establish a coastwide seagrass monitoring program. The program would address several objectives: define key indicators that describe seagrass habitat health and quality; identify relationships between water and sediment quality parameters and seagrass productivity; establish a coordinated sampling program with approved protocols to collect data for ready access by resource managers. | 2001 | $44,735 | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department |
| TX | **Development of an Acute Pollution Event Response Plan for South Bay Coastal Preserve**-Texas Parks and Wildlife plans to develop a strategy to minimize damage to natural resources of the South Bay Coastal Preserve from impacts that may arise due to pollution event involving oil or other hazardous substances. Preliminary work is necessary to develop a site-specific plan for first responders to pollution events in this environmental sensitive area. Federal, state and local governments and private contractors need to be supplied with detailed information and strategies specific to the South Bay Coastal Preserve so that damage can be minimized. This plan will be supplemental to and used in conjunction with existing state and federal contingency plans. | 2002 | $26,000 | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department |
| TX | **Texas Historic Aerial Photography Scanning Project for the Texas Gulf Coast**-The Texas Natural Resource Information Network's scanning and georeferencing project includes all fifteen Texas gulf coast counties. This project involves scanning hard copy historical aerial photography for each county, georeferencing the imagery to attach spatial reference files to each digital image, and creating map-accurate imagery that can be viewed using geographic information system software. The imagery will be geo-referenced to the 1995-96 digital orthophoto quadrangles that have been completed for the entire state of Texas. | 2002 | $62,066 | Texas Water Development Board |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TX | **Web-Enabled Bay & Gulf Interactive Eco-Tour**-The Galveston Bay Estuary Program will provide CD-ROM interactive, educational tools challenging users to explore estuaries and Gulf of Mexico environmental issues and then become involved in resolving the issues that have been created. The project will be designed for Internet and computer users of all ages and will be available for Mac and Windows computers. There will be a video disk for distribution to schools, libraries, learning centers, and nature centers. | 2001 | $45,000 | Texas Natural Resource Cons. Commission |
| TX | **Texas Gulf Coast Molluscan Shellfish Growing Water**-The long-term goal of this project is to restore water quality in twenty coastal bays and estuaries contaminated with high densities of fecal coliform so that they may support oyster water designated use. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission plans to develop long-term strategies to address the oyster water designated use impairments on the 2000 Clean Water Act §303(d) list. | 2001 | $81,000 | Texas Natural Resource Cons. Commission |
| TX | **Addressing Invasive Species in the Galveston Bay Watershed-** The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission is working to eliminate invasive species in Galveston Bay. Non-indigenous species invasions are a growing threat to the quality of habitat in the Galveston Bay System and the Gulf of Mexico. The goal of this project is to establish an invasive species control program within the Galveston Bay Estuary Program that will conduct annual invasive species control projects that pose the greatest ecological threats to the watershed. | 2002 | $54,000 | Texas Natural Resource Cons. Commission |
| TX | **On-Site Sewage Facility Rehabilitation**-Failed on-site sewage systems are a significant source of pollution to coastal waters. There are over 20,000 on-site systems in the four coastal counties within the Coastal Bend area of Texas. The primary goal of this project is to rehabilitate or replace as many failing septic systems in underprivileged areas within Nueces County as possible with functioning, approved wastewater treatment systems. | 2000 | $46,000 | Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TX | **Colonial Waterbird Rookery Island Management within the Coastal Bend-**This project will address avian resources, species requirements, threats faced by the species and habitats they require in the Coastal Bend Bay and Estuary Program area. The Rookery Island Strategic Management Plan for colonial waterbird conservation will identify and prioritize projects to address threats to colonial waterbird species and their habitats on a regional scale. Addressing such factors at a regional level will allow for the evaluation of the dynamic nature of species composition on specific islands throughout the area. This undertaking will also implement significant demonstration projects. | 2000 | $90,000 | Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program |
| TX | **Preliminary Assessment of the Potential for Introduction of Non-Indigenous Aquatic Invasive Species-**To effectively manage existing and future resources, the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuary Program needs to preliminarily assess the risk of introduction of nonindigenous species from deep-draft ships ballast water using the Corpus Christi, Texas, port system. The principal objective of this project includes an assessment of the potential for reciprocal transfers from Corpus Christi Bay waters to the waters of the trade partners. | 2001 | $25,000 | Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program |
| TX | **Colonial Waterbird Rookery Island Management within the Coastal Bend (Year 2**)- Continued support is provided to address avian resources, species requirements, threats faced by the species, and habitats they require in the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program area. This project will implement the Colonial Waterbird Rookery Island Strategic Management Plan for colonial waterbird conservation which will continue to identify and prioritize projects to address threats to colonial waterbird species and their habitats on a regional scale. | 2001 | $85,000 | Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program |
| TX | **Development and Implementation of Regional Water Quality Monitoring Program**-The Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries will address water quality issues in Southern Texas. This water quality project will include monitoring and assessment of regional waterways, and will address water quality issues, which have resulted in the 303(d) listing of impaired coastal water segments. This project will attempt to resolve issues contributing to public health concerns; low dissolved oxygen, nutrient-loading sources of nutrient inputs, and will include assessment of submerged aquatic vegetation habitat in cooperation with ongoing research projects being conducted in the area. | 2002 | $157,500 | Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program |

# GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM PROJECTS
# FY2000-2003

| State | Project Title and Description | Year | Funding | Recipient |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TX | **Sea Turtles in the New Century**-This project will provide conservation information to educators in the United States and Mexico concerning sea turtles found in the Gulf of Mexico. A series of training workshops will be conducted in border towns of Texas and Tamaulipas, Mexico. The workshops will provide background information on sea turtle biology, as well as education materials and curriculum that can be used in classrooms and community to increase sea turtle awareness and conservation. | 2002 | $17,000 | Texas State Aquarium Association |
| TX | **Colonial Waterbird Rookery Island Management within the Coastal Bend (Year 3) -** Continuation of this project will assist in implementing the Rookery Island Management Plan which is directed at restoring, protecting, and enhancing habitats beneficial to coastal nesting bird populations along the central and lower Texas coasts. Actions include predator control, human disturbance avoidance, nesting substrate supplementation, and vegetation management to enhance rookery island habitat. The project will also promote public participation and recognition programs to protect the bay system and its resources. | 2003 | $112,500 | Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program |
| TX | **Bahia Grande Restoration Project -** Coastal development has altered the natural exchange of nutrients and access to essential fisheries habitat along the Gulf of Mexico. The restoration of Bahia Grande presents a unique opportunity to document the functional role and potential contribution from restoration of fishery habitat estuaries, the association between fish and shellfish species and estuarine habitat, and ecological processes that contribute to species productivity. The restoration will also provide benefits to the surrounding communities by reducing the amount of windblown dust. It will have economic and educational impacts on the entire Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. | 2003 | $225,000 | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| | | | $8,609,853 | |